

ALLIES CONTEST EVERY  
FOOT OF FORFEITED AREA

Desperate Resistance Appears to Have Not Halted Boches' Advance Greatly, Although They Suffered Extreme Losses—Taking of Rheims Momentarily Expected.

(Associated Press)

Gen Foch's reserves have begun to come into action in the fight against the powerful German thrust southward from the Aisne, and the enemy is finding his progress increasingly difficult in consequence.

Again the allied flanks are standing firm, and while Soissons has been lost on the west, Rheims is still holding out on the easterly edge of the battle front.

The chief progress of the Germans revealed in today's official reports was in the center of their advance, where some three miles additional ground have been covered from Loupeigne, twelve miles north of the Marne, to Fere-En-Tardenois.

The blunt edge of the German wedge is shown to run here from Fere-En-Tardenois, about ten and one-half miles directly east to Vezeilly, fifteen and one-half miles southwest of Rheims.

Along this line the Germans are about eighteen miles south of the Chemin des Dames, giving them a penetration of approximately that distance at the beginning of the fifth day of their offensive.

Sweeping onward in dense masses the Germans have advanced fifteen miles in the center of the line between Soissons and Rheims. On the allied left Soissons has fallen, while Rheims, on the right, is in grave danger, the Franco-British troops having retired to within less than two miles of the famous city.

Desperate as has been the resistance of the French and British, especially the French on the left, and the heavy losses suffered by the enemy, the German advance has not been halted greatly.

The steadiness of the allied flanks under the heavy German pressure is one of the outstanding indications in the Paris official report. The Germans, for instance, made attempt after attempt to debouch from Soissons against the west, with Soissons, ten and a half miles eastward, representing the extreme southeasterly progress of the enemy.

To the southeast the French reserves are coming into play and here the allies are resisting the enemy in engagements of extreme violence along the road from Soissons to Hartennes-Et-Taux, seven and a half miles south-east of Soissons.

Fere-En-Tardenois, eight and a half miles southwest of Hartennes-Et-Taux, apparently marks the limit of the German advance toward the southwest, with Soissons, ten and a half miles eastward, representing the extreme southeasterly progress of the enemy.

From Vezeilly the front trends northward. Brouillet is the next point mentioned in the official communiqué and it lies three and a half miles north of Vezeilly and only slightly to the east of a north and south line running through the latter town.

Brouillet is thirteen miles southeast of Rheims and along the ten-mile line from that point to Thillois, three miles east of Rheims and thence trending northward above the cathedral city the Franco-British defensive line is reported to have broken all the German assaults and to have maintained the front intact.

On the Flanders front the Germans made a local attack on a British position northwest of Festubert, in the Ginchy sector, which met with a complete repulse. The British improved their line by an advance of some 200 yards in the Merris sector to the northwest.

Attacks continue against the Americans established in the village of Cantigny, west of Montdidier, in the Ginchy sector, which met with a complete repulse. The assaults have been almost continuous, news dispatches report, but each has been broken up by the American stonewall resistance.

Soissons fell to the Germans after a fierce fight in the streets of the city for several hours, and the French were last reported holding tenaciously to the western suburbs. The enemy advance to Soissons has not yet affected greatly the French line eastward from Montdidier, which the Germans apparently hope to bend back by their success on the Aisne. The curve in the battle line northwest of Rheims has been wiped out, and from Soissons eastward the line runs southeast and then east

## Liberty Has Never Yet Called Us in Vain



(Copyright by New York Tribune)

machines on their own side of the line.

Fourth Day of Struggle.  
(By Frank Charlton, International News Service Cable Editor.)  
Although the French have given up Soissons, the Anglo-French armies, supported by powerful reserves, are holding tight to their positions west and southwest of Soissons and in the mighty battle zone west of Rheims.

The battle continued all night, with the Germans hurling themselves in a series of furious assaults against the allied positions. The struggle, which is now in its fourth day, has taken on greater violence than ever marked the great drives on the Picardy and Flanders battlefields.

The new battle line, which is about eighteen miles south of the old front as it existed last summer, now forms a salient extending southeastward from Soissons past Belleu and Loupeigne to Brouillet, the apex, thence in a north-easterly direction past Savigny and Thillois to Brimont, north of Rheims, where it joins the old line.

The magnificent valor of the French and British soldiers has never been shown to better advantage than in stemming the German attacks west of Rheims, where superior numbers were met, and thrown back.

The swaying tide of battle carried the line southward past Rheims, throwing a semi-circle around this battle-scarred city. Although Rheims is menaced with capture by the Germans, it is too early to predict definitely that the city will fall.

French military critics believe that the objective of the Germans is the important railway line which runs from Paris to Châlons. But this line is twenty-three miles south of the present battle line, and there is little likelihood of the Germans going much further, according to the indications today.

Employing his old-time tactics, Von Hindenburg used vast masses of men, sending them into the cauldron of battle in dense formation. Caught under the seething fire of French and British machine guns and artillery, the ranks withered away.

Had Rather Be Shot At Home Than in Europe.  
Creed of Alabama Slackers.  
Watsonites Hiding in Mountain Caves.

(Associated Press.)  
Montgomery, Ala., May 30.—"We'd rather be shot at home than in Europe" is the creed of the slackers now entrenched in caves in Coosa county, where Sheriff Hardy has tried every means to get them to come out and join the colors. These men are not pro-Germans; they are the sons of men known in Coosa county as Watsonites, followers of Tom Watson. Six of the slackers took to the mountains when the April draft was called and sent word back by friends that the authorities could expect trouble if they attempted to arrest them. When the May draft came, William Stanley Poole, who has been called, stated he would go out and get his brother and both would come in, but instead he became a member of the band. With the nine slackers is one deserter, who deserted while convalescent from pneumonia, from Camp Gordon. The slackers move about among the mountain peaks, procuring food from any house they reach, for the residents are afraid not to give them aid. The authorities will make no determined effort to bring them in now, hoping to have the men come in one at a time voluntarily and avoid bloodshed.

SIX THOUSAND  
TO GREENLEAF

Louisville, May 30.—Draft contingents to be sent to camps other than those at Louisville and Chillicothe, O., were said to include 6,000 to Camp Greenleaf.

FIGHTING SOUTH AISNE  
INCREASES IN VIOLENCE

Teutons Push Center Line Forward But Fail to Broaden Advancing Front.

(Associated Press.)  
Paris, May 30.—Increasing violence marks the progress of the fighting south of the Aisne. The Germans are fighting against time and are throwing every ounce of weight of manpower into the struggle.

In the center the enemy has again pushed forward, but his efforts to broaden his advancing front have met with less success. The allied wings have been obliged to give some ground. This action was carried out slowly and the full price was exacted from the enemy.

Soissons has gone and the British have fallen back toward Rheims, but in either case the enemy has only won a couple of miles of territory.

In complete circles there is quiet confidence in the outcome and signs are not lacking that the advancing waves shortly will be stemmed. Unity of command puts the allies in a better position than they were in the March offensive. On that occasion French reinforcements came into action on the third day and on the eighth the Germans were stopped definitely. Today things should go more quickly.

The Germans have been obliged to leave their guns on the northern side of the original line, which can be crossed only at a certain number of points which are highly vulnerable to allied airplanes. The enemy is thus prevented from reaping the full benefits of his rapid advance. Meanwhile the allied reserves are massing at certain points without any of the confusion that attended the similar movement in March. So well perfected are the arrangements that an entire division can be moved by motor truck from the Somme to Rheims in forty-eight hours and arrive without a button missing.

## FAIR, HOPES BILLY 'POSSUM

Little girls, I learned today (boys may also feel that way) take offense when I must say 'twill ain't. Big girls, too, may take objection, though I think upon reflection, much depends upon connection, circumstance and retreat—whether I bring deep dejection and disdain. The weather? The weather man is taking an official holiday, so in response to one little girl's special request, so that she may play outside, I predict: Fair and cooler.

## OFFICIAL REPORTS

## German.

Berlin, via London, Wednesday, May 29.—The number of prisoners taken by the Germans on the Aisne battle front has increased to 25,000, says the German official communication issued today. The prisoners include one French and one English general.

The text of the communication follows:

"On the battle fronts, from the Yser to the Oise, the increased fighting activity continued. French local attacks south of Ypres failed.

"West of Montdidier the enemy, during local advances, penetrated into Cantigny yesterday.

"The armies of Col.-Gen. Boehm and Gen. Von Below, of the army of the German crown prince, have victoriously continued their attack. French and English reserves rushed up were defeated.

"The right wing divisions of Gen. Larisch, after repelling a French counter attack, captured the Terny-Sorny ridge and the heights northeast of Soissons. After hard fighting the troops of Gen. Wichura also broke the resistance of the enemy on the plateau of Condé. Fort Condé was taken by storm. Vregny and Misy also were taken, on the southern bank of the Aisne, and the Vesle heights to the west of Cliry were occupied.

"The corps of Gen. Von Winkler, Gen. Von Conta and Gen. Schmetow have crossed the Vesle. Braine and Plaines have been captured and we are standing on the heights due south of the Vesle. The troops of Gen. Lefe have taken the hills northeast of Brouillet by storm and have captured Villers Franquet and Courcy and now are fighting for the heights of Thiery.

"The indefatigable advancing infantry, artillery and mine thrower detachments are being closely followed by balloons, antiaircraft guns and dispatch riders.

"The energetic labors of the pioneers and railway equipment and construction troops have rendered possible the conquest of the field of attack and the bringing up of fighting means by columns uninterrupted. In self-sacrificing activity doctors and stretcher bearers are looking after the wounded on the battlefields.

"In spite of the changing weather our aerial forces are attacking the enemy again and again with bombs and machine guns, while aviators have surveyed without interruption our progressing attack and effect of our artillery fire.

"The number of prisoners has increased to 25,000, including one French and one English general."

The official report from headquarters tonight says:

"Near Soissons and between Soissons and Rheims we made fresh progress."

SEVEN GERMAN DIVISIONS  
IN INITIAL OFFENSIVE

(International News Service.)  
London, May 30.—Seven German divisions delivered the initial attacks in the German offensive on the Aisne front, according to Hamilton Fyfe, war correspondent of the Daily Mail.

Six more German divisions "leap-frogged" over them. There is now a total of twenty-one German divisions in that zone of combat.

There is greater secrecy about German troop movements now than at any other time since the German grand offensive was opened against Amiens on March 21.

A German division consists of from 12,000 to 14,000 men.

FRENCH MAINTAIN HOLD  
WEST OUTLETS SOISSONS

Battle Continued Through Night, Allies Putting Down All German Assaults Northwest of Rheims—Defense Determined—Fighting in Progress at Vezeilly.

(Associated Press)

Paris, May 30.—The battle along the fighting front continued all night, with the French maintaining the western outlets of Soissons, the war office announced today.

Northwest of Rheims the Franco-British forces broke all the German assaults and maintained the defensive positions.

French reserves are continuing to arrive on the front and the German advance is being resisted with great tenacity.

The Germans made repeated attempts to break through the defense in the Soissons region but were each time held up by the determined French resistance.

In the center of the German advance fighting is taking place in the neighborhood of Vezeilly (approximately eighteen miles south of the Chemin Des Dames, where the German attack was launched on Monday).

(Associated Press.)  
Reputed in Flanders.  
London, May 30.—A German attack on a strong allied position in Flanders northwest of Festubert, has been repulsed completely. It is announced officially.

The statement follows:

"During the night the enemy attacked the strong point known as 'Route-a-Keep' northwest of Festubert, and was completely repulsed. We carried out a successful minor operation in the neighborhood of Merris and improved our line slightly. We captured a few prisoners and a machine gun in these encounters. A party of our troops raided the enemy's trenches last night near Locon and brought back a few prisoners.

"The hostile artillery has been active east of Villers-Bretonneux and in the hinges and Robecq sectors."

Purpose Twofold.

As the battle proceeds the enemy's purpose becomes plain. It is twofold. First of all, eighteen miles south of the Vesle flows the Marne, which forms with the Oise one of the great avenues of approach to Paris. Along its course runs the Châlons railroad, the main eastern artery.

To gain a footing in the Marne valley even an approach within artillery range of it, would be an appreciable result. That is sufficient to show why the Germans continue to push southward so violently.

The second objective, which the German staff considers even more important, judging by the efforts made at Soissons, is to broaden the salient to the westward. By enlarging the action there the German crown prince intends to approach nearer to Paris on the direct route.

The French command is fully aware of the importance of this movement. Although Soissons was evacuated to prevent needless sacrifice of men, the French held all the roads leading out of the town.

Heavy fighting still lies ahead for the allies, but those most competent to express an opinion are satisfied that the German drive will be stopped in the near future.

The statement follows:

"The battle continued with undiminished violence during the night. French troops energetically maintained the western outlets of Soissons, and the enemy, notwithstanding repeated efforts, was unable to debouch from the town.

Further south engagements of extreme violence developed in the region of the road between Soissons and Hartennes and in the front between Fere-En-Tardenois and Reilly, where the French troops, supported by reserves, are opposing the German advance with indomitable tenacity.

"On the right, Franco-British troops along the front between Brouillet and Thillois and also northwest of Rheims, broke all assaults and maintained their positions."

With the French Army in France, May 29.—(Evening.)—Allied reserves now are taking up positions in the battle line. They are being thrown in to strengthen defending forces where they are weakest, in preparation for the placing of a barrier to a further German advance.

No Infantry Action.  
(Associated Press.)  
Fort Worth, Tex., May 30.—Lieut. P. G. Milledar, instructor at Tallahassee aviation field, died this morning from injuries received Wednesday afternoon when his airplane crashed to earth. Lieut. Buckus, who was with him at the time, escaped with slight injuries.

LYING INSTRUCTOR AT  
TEXAS FIELD SUCCUMBS

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AMERICA HONORS  
SOLDIER DEAD

Upon European Soil for First Time in History—Day Has Deeper Meaning.

## GUNS BOOM THE WHILE

No Graves Forgotten—President's Proclamation Generally Observed.

(International News Service.)

With the American Army in France, May 30.—For the first time in history America honored her soldier dead upon European soil today. Memorial day was observed everywhere from the ports of disembarkation along the line of communication to the various headquarters and down to the very trenches. In many villages French civilians, learning that this is the day when America pays tribute to her fallen heroes, joined in the ceremonies. They brought bouquets of wild flowers to the little bursting grounds where lie the Americans killed in action or who have died of disease.

While the guns were booming all along the entire front a detachment of Americans early this morning visited the graveyard on the grassy slope of a hill between Nancy and Lunelville, where a fenced-in inclosure marks the spot where the first soldier killed in the war with Germany lies buried.

The chaplain held a brief service over the graves which were bedecked with flowers. Similar scenes were enacted elsewhere in other burying places in the later sectors taken over by the Americans and in the rear of the areas where the mortally wounded have died.

A group of aviators flying behind the Toul front visited the field where Luffberry and other air heroes lie buried and dropped roses from their machines upon the graves.

At field headquarters American and French soldiers honored the day. American and French clergies and many French civilians took part.

Carries Deeper Meaning.  
(Associated Press.)

Washington, May 30.—Memorial day, this year carrying a deeper meaning because of the fuller participation of the United States in the war and more significant because of the new American graves in France, was observed today by the American people as a day of public humiliation, prayer and fasting, in accordance with the proclamation of President Wilson issued in response to a resolution of congress.

While in no manner was the holiday annually shown to the veterans of past wars lessened, yet the thought of the nation largely was centered on the battlefields of France.

That American troops are aiding in the attempt to stem the German tide was a source of gratification as well as the recent news that the Americans had carried out successfully their first offensive action. Further news of the German offensive was awaited with a feeling among high officials here that the onrush of the Kaiser's armies soon would be stopped.

In Washington the spirit of the president's proclamation was generally carried out. The president planned to attend church services this morning and this afternoon it was expected he would be present at the annual service at Arlington National cemetery.

Both houses of congress stood adjourned to permit members to observe the day. Practically all of the government departments and bureaus were closed.